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## Children & Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention

### **SAFE SURRENDER BABY HOTLINE**

*Statewide toll free hotline telephone number for safe surrender baby locations*

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law became a permanent statute in Section 1255.7 of the California Health and Safety Code in January 2006. The law seeks to prevent newborn infants from being discarded in an unsafe manner, and instead, safely surrendered to a hospital or fire agency that has been determined as an appropriate safe surrender site. Newborn infants less than 72 hours of age may be surrendered with no questions asked. A surrendering person may be the parent or a person the parent entrusted the infant to for surrendering. A band is placed on the infant and the surrendering person receives a match. The surrendering person is encouraged to fill out a medical questionnaire, but such is not mandatory. Infants receive a medical exam and are placed in foster homes by the county's child welfare agency.

Since the law's passage, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) has provided education and outreach to promote knowledge and understanding of the law. In furtherance of this goal, OCAP has entered into an agreement with The Information and Referral Federation of Los Angeles County—dba "211 LA County"—to provide a statewide toll free telephone number which identifies locations of safe surrender baby sites in the state. The hotline number is 1-877-BABYSAF or 1-877-222-7923. The hotline became live in February, 2010.

211 LA County has been providing community resource information and referral to 20 counties in the state, including safe surrender baby sites. Los Angeles County has the same hotline in operation. In the other 38 counties not contracting with 211, hospitals and fire stations were surveyed to compile a database of safe surrender locations. 211 LA County merged the data of the 38 counties' safe surrender site locations and established a telecommunications linkup to their operators so that anyone in the state who dials the hotline will have access to locations of all the safe surrender sites in the state.

Information about the law may be found at [www.babysafe.ca.gov](http://www.babysafe.ca.gov). The site also has directions for ordering brochures and posters both in English and Spanish.

The SSB hotline is funded by Safely Surrender Baby Funds.